

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A communication apparatus, comprising:
  - a transmitter including an encoder circuit for converting transmit data into a transmit signal synchronizing to a transmit clock;
  - a receiver including a decoder circuit for converting a receive signal  
5 into receive data synchronizing to a receive clock; and
  - a clock supply select circuit controlling a supply of said transmit clock and said receive clock to said transmitter and said receiver,
    - said clock supply select circuit including
    - a clock generate circuit generating an internal clock signal, and  
10 a clock modulate circuit generating a modulate clock signal that is modulated such that at least one of frequency error, phase fluctuation, jitter and waveform fluctuation is forcibly applied to said internal clock of reference, wherein
    - in a normal operation mode, said clock supply select circuit supplies  
15 said internal clock signal as each of said transmit clock and said receive clock in common, and in a loopback operation mode, said clock supply select circuit supplies said internal clock signal as one of said transmit clock and said receive clock and supplies said modulate clock signal as the other of said transmit clock and said receive clock.
2. The communication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
  - said clock supply select circuit includes a clock switch provided corresponding to said transmitter, wherein
    - said clock switch supplies to said transmitter, in said normal  
5 operation mode, said internal clock signal as said transmit clock, and in said loopback operation mode, said modulate clock signal as said transmit clock, and wherein
    - said clock supply select circuit supplies to said receiver, in each of said normal operation mode and said loopback operation mode, said internal  
10 clock signal as said receive clock.

3. The communication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
said clock supply select circuit includes a clock switch provided  
corresponding to said receiver, wherein

5 said clock switch supplies to said receiver, in said normal operation  
mode, said internal clock signal as said receive clock, and in said loopback  
operation mode, said modulate clock signal as said receive clock, and  
wherein

10 said clock supply select circuit supplies to said transmitter, in each  
of said normal operation mode and said loopback operation mode, said  
internal clock signal as said transmit clock.

4. The communication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
said clock generate circuit further generates a plurality of clock  
signals having a same frequency as said internal clock signal and with  
phases different from each other, and wherein

5 said clock modulate circuit includes  
a counter circuit of which count value changes synchronizing to an  
external trigger, and

10 a selector circuit receiving said plurality of clock signals from said  
clock generate circuit and selectively outputting one of said plurality of clock  
signals that corresponds to said count value as said modulate clock signal.

5. The communication apparatus according to claim 1, further  
comprising

5 a data compare circuit comparing said transmit data input to said  
encoder circuit and said receive data output from said decoder circuit, and  
generating a signal in accordance with a result of the comparison.

6. The communication apparatus according to claim 5, wherein  
said data compare circuit includes

5 a buffer circuit receiving said transmit data, retaining said transmit  
data inside for a period in accordance with a timing difference between said  
internal clock signal and said modulate clock signal, and outputting said

transmit data, and

a comparator comparing said transmit data output from said buffer circuit and said receive data from said decoder circuit.

7. The communication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said transmitter further includes a differential driver converting said transmit signal of a single-end signal into a differential signal to be output, and wherein

5 said receiver further includes a differential receiver converting a received differential signal into said receive signal of a single-end signal; said communication apparatus further comprising a signal switch forming as necessary, in said loopback operation mode, a signal path bypassing said differential driver and said differential  
10 receiver for passing said transmit signal output from said encoder circuit directly as said receive signal.

8. A communication apparatus, comprising:

a transmitter including an encoder circuit converting transmit data into a transmit signal synchronizing to said clock signal;

a receiver including a decoder circuit converting a receive signal into  
5 receive data synchronizing to said clock signal;

a clock generate circuit generating a plurality of clock signals having a same frequency as said clock signal and with phases different from each other; and

a jitter measure circuit measuring, in a loopback operation mode,  
10 jitter occurring in said transmitter, based on a transition of a result of phase comparison between a transition edge of said receive signal and a transition edge of each of said plurality of clock signals.

9. The communication apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said jitter measure circuit includes

a clock sampling circuit detecting each level of said plurality of clocks at each of said transition edges of said receive signal, and

5           a phase compare circuit converting a transition of the level of said plurality of clocks between each of said transition edges of said receive signal, detected by said clock sampling circuit, into a phase difference.

10.   The communication apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said phase compare circuit generates a detect signal indicating whether said phase difference obtained by converting the transition of the level of said plurality of clocks exceeds a prescribed jitter tolerance value.

11.   The communication apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said transmitter further includes a differential driver converting said transmit signal of a single-end signal into a differential signal to be output, and wherein

5           said receiver further includes a differential receiver converting a received differential signal into said receive signal of a single-end signal; said communication apparatus further comprising  
a signal switch forming as necessary, in said loopback operation mode, a signal path bypassing said differential driver and said differential receiver for passing said transmit signal output from said encoder circuit  
10          directly as said receive signal.

12.   A communication apparatus, comprising:  
a communication node and a test communication node capable of transmitting and receiving a signal between other said communication apparatus;

5           a transmitter converting received transmit data into a transmit signal and outputting it to said communication node;  
a receiver converting a receive signal that is received at a receive node and outputting the converted receive signal as receive data; and  
a signal switch selectively forming a signal path between one of said  
10          communication node and said test communication node, and said receive node; wherein  
in a first test mode, a signal path is formed between said

communication node of said communication apparatus and said test  
communication node of said other communication apparatus, as well as  
15 between said test communication node of said communication apparatus  
and said communication node of said other communication apparatus, and  
wherein

within each of said communication apparatus and said other  
communication apparatus, said signal switch forms a signal path between  
20 said test communication node and said receive node.

13. The communication apparatus according to claim 12, wherein  
in each of a second test mode that is different from said first test  
mode and a normal operation mode, said signal switch of said  
communication apparatus forms a signal path between said communication  
5 node and said receive node of said communication apparatus.

14. The communication apparatus according to claim 12, wherein  
said transmitter and said receiver operates synchronizing to a  
transmit clock and a receive clock, respectively;  
said communication apparatus further comprising  
5 a clock supply select circuit controlling a supply of said transmit  
clock and said receive clock to said transmitter and said receiver; wherein  
said clock supply select circuit includes  
a clock generate circuit generating an internal clock signal, and  
a clock modulate circuit generating a modulate clock signal that is  
10 modulated such that at least one of frequency error, phase fluctuation, jitter  
and waveform fluctuation is applied to said internal clock signal of reference,  
and wherein

in said normal operation mode, said clock supply select circuit  
supplying said internal clock signal as each of said transmit clock and said  
15 receive clock in common, and in said first test mode, said clock supply select  
circuit supplying said internal clock signal as one of said transmit clock and  
said receive clock, and said modulate clock signal as the other of said  
transmit clock and said receive clock.

15. The communication apparatus according to claim 12, wherein  
said transmitter includes an encoder circuit converting said transmit  
data into said transmit signal synchronizing to a clock signal, and wherein  
said receiver includes a decoder circuit converting said receive signal  
5 into said receive data synchronizing to said clock signal;  
said communication apparatus further comprising  
a clock generate circuit generating a plurality of clock signals having  
a same frequency as said clock signal and with phases different from each  
other, and  
10 a jitter measure circuit measuring, in said first test mode, jitter  
occurring in said transmitter based on a transition of a result of phase  
comparison between a transition edge of said receive signal and a transition  
edge of said plurality of clock signals.